

REMARKS

Claims 1-25, 27-30 and 32-48 are pending in the present application.

Claim 1 is amended herein.

Claims 26 and 31 are canceled

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth herein. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Zietlow.

Zietlow is cited as disclosing the silver halide element with silver halide emulsion layers containing gelatin, silver halide and gelatin to silver halide ratios as set forth in claim 1. Regarding the rejection based on anticipation Applicants respectfully submit that the examples in Zietlow do not recite the levels as claimed. Examples 5E and 6E recite a gelatin to silver ratio of 0.47 and 0.63

respectively. The silver is represented as mg/ft² of silver whereas the presently claimed invention specifies that the silver is represented as silver nitrate. The present claimed invention is not recited in the art and therefore the anticipation rejection is improper.

Regarding the obviousness rejection Applicants respectfully traverse. The present invention is directed to a dental film which can be rapidly processed. It is well established in the art that the binder absorbs processing solution and rapid processing requires lower binder. The present invention teaches the use of higher binder levels which is contrary to increasing processing speeds. Furthermore, the binder differs from gelatin. One skilled in the art would be led away from higher binder and have no basis for substituting non-gelatin binder at the levels set forth in claim 1.

The balance of the claimed invention, taken with higher binder, provides a film which can be rapidly processed using higher binder. This is contrary to the expectations of one of skill in the art and not taught in Zietlow. One of skill in the art would be led in a direction contrary to the

claimed invention and therefore a rejection of obviousness based on Zietlow is improper.

The rejection of claims 1-48 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Zietlow is traversed and a notice of allowance earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-3, 7-9, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29, 31-34, 38-42, 44 and 46-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Heremans et al. or European Patent Publication 620,482.

Both Heremans et al. and EPO '482 are cited as disclosing silver halide elements with silver halide emulsion layers containing gelatin, silver halide and gelatin to silver halide ratios as required by the instant claims. Applicants respectively traverse for the reasons set forth herein.

First, claim 1 recites that the hydrophilic gelatinous layer arrangement is a hydrophilic polymer differing from gelatin. Therefore, the teachings of Heremans and EPO '482

concerning gelatin to silver ratio are not relevant to the claimed invention.

Second, even if one did assume the teachings were relevant they teach contrary to the instant claims.

Heremans et al. teaches a gelatin to silver ratio of only 0.26 as set forth in col. 3 lines 22-23. Heremans et al. then proceeds to discuss the negative impact of higher gelatin levels. Therefore, one of skill in the art would be expected to maintain a low gelatin level to maintain high photographic speed and rapid drying.

EPO '482 teaches the gelatin ratio but is silent with regards to hydrophilic polymers differing from gelatin. In particular, one of skill in the art would have no basis for determining the amount of hydrophilic polymer differing from gelatin and could not reasonably be expected to arrive at an amount of at least 1 g/m².

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-3, 7-9, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29, 31-34, 38-42, 44 and 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over

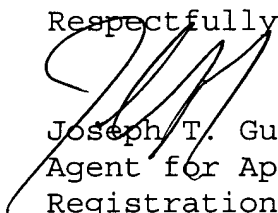
Heremans et al. or European Patent Publication 620,482 is traversed and a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1-25, 27-30 and 32-48 are pending in the present application. All claims are in condition for allowance. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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